GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3176
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
DEATH OF LEOPARDS
Chaliha Shri Kirip

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that 12 leopards were found dead in areas near Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether leopards are on the verge of extinction in Assam; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to protect them as per laws?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) As reported by State Government, 9 leopards have died during the last three years in areas near Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam. The details are at Annexure-A.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The action taken for protection and preservation of Leopards include -

- Leopard is included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby getting the highest protection. Hunting and dealing in the products of leopards are banned.

- Export-Import Policy of Government of India puts total ban on the export of all species of wild animals and their products.

- The trade of leopards is regulated by the provisions of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of flora and fauna (CITES) to which India is a signatory.

- States Governments have notified important habitats of leopards as National Parks and Sanctuaries. The Government of India provides financial assistance for such protected areas.